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THE MEETING OF THE LORD
STRITENIE

Fulfilling the Law given in Lev. 12:2-7 and Exodus 12:2, the Mother of God on the fortieth day after His birth brought her Son to the Temple in Jerusalem to consecrate Him to the Lord and to purify herself. The Ancient Law of Moses dated back to the time when Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt after the ten plagues. The last plague involved the death of a first-born male who were spared by the blood of the covenant. In remembrance of this, every first-born male was dedicated in the Temple forty days after birth. The ceremony included purification of the mother.

The Law required the mother to bring a lamb as a burnt offering and a pigeon or turtledove as a sin offering. If the mother was unable to bring a lamb, she should bring two turtledoves or pigeons.

Mary must have longed to bring a lamb to show her love and gratitude to God. But she and Joseph were too poor to buy one. So they offered the pair of turtledoves, which was all they could afford. They gave their offering with the happy assurance that God was pleased with them. They had given what they could.

Have your life's circumstances boxed you into a corner? You may be too ill, or short of money, or hampered by responsibilities to give or do anything much. Read about Mary and Joseph in Luke 2:21-24 and the message will come through loud and clear: do what you can, use what you have, give out of your poverty. Don't dwell on "if onlys." Rather, turn out the contents of your heart and mind. What has He left you that you can give or use for Him? How can you use what you have to bring blessings to others? Doves or pigeons are as welcomed by God as are lambs.

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Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.

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The person who forgives ends the quarrel.



This is a sketch of a cross which at one time crowned a church in the Lemko-Galician region of Poland. Note the small crosses at the ends of the main arms. These three small crosses represent the three nails used in the crucifixion of Our Lord. The round circles symbolize the sun and a crescent moon can be seen at the bottom. The sun signifies "Christ is the Light of the World."

OBSERVATIONS ON CARPATHIAN
HERITAGE TOUR

We were astonished to find so many ancestral villages with churches destroyed or converted to use by the Roman Catholic Church. These churches were obviously Eastern at one time. Sometimes the ikonostas was still there but an altar was placed in front of the closed Royal doors; other times, the central part of the ikonostas would be pushed back making an alcove in which the altar fit. Many times there are still visible signs of cupolas which have been burned and replaced with spires. Perhaps, the biggest disappointment was finding a whole village destroyed, the church along with everything else. Even the graves were obliterated in Poland (Galicia-Lemko area).

This is what we found in the southern part of Poland, which was known as Galicia or Lemko and was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire when so many of the people fled and came to the New World.

Imagine the ikons, chalices, candlesticks, robes, banners, etc. which have been destroyed or lost! We did see some ikons in the home of Bishop Adam of Sanok. He had others stored in the church

(Continued on Page 57, Col. 1)

THE BABAS TAUGHT ME

The importance of candles in the church. On the Holy Day of the Presentation Feb. 2/15 the committee men brought up from the storage room the boxes of candles they had ordered the previous month. They tried to order enough for the whole year. These candles were blessed as were the candles that people might have brought from home.

As the years went by, fewer and fewer boxes were brought up as churches began to eliminate candles in the services. First to go were the candles which are traditionally held for the Parastas or Memorial Service. Because they made a mess, we may be giving candles up for memorial services in the church; but the general public is taking up the tradition, and memorial services complete with candles are held for many people and causes the world over.

Next to go were some of the candles in the candelabras in front of the ikonostas. Again – mess was the reason and vigil lights were substituted. Then these were discouraged because they made smoke and it messes the walls and ceiling.

Lighted candles in the Church remind us of Christ: "the true Light, Who enlightens everyone who comes into the world." John 1:9. Without His Light all is darkness, nor can there be any hope for mankind apart from His Light.

If you are fortunate enough to attend a church which still uses candles, don't give them to children to hold and be careful not to drip wax on the pew or floor. If your church doesn't have anything to put on the end of the candle to contain the drip, save your small aluminum pie pans and make an X in the center so that a candle can be pulled through – take them to church for your use and for others. Baba doesn't like messes either but some parishes have carried the elimination of candles too far.

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Our days are happier when we give people a bit of our heart rather than a piece of our mind.

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CHRONOLOGY

FEBRUARY 1998

DIED: Fr. Paul Borick in Coaldale, PA. Fr. Oleg Boldireff in Canada. Protodeacon Paul Yova in Fairlawn, OH.

SYNDESMOS urges February 2/15 to be celebrated as The World Day of Orthodox Youth. This is a Pan-Orthodox effort.

THE ORTHODOX CASSETTE PROJECT is now over a year old. Twenty-six cassettes are available for $130. These cassettes consist of weekly gospel readings, meditations on gospels, and Slavonic Choral music sung by choirs from all over the world. Send request to Fr. Stroyen, PO Box 9, Hunlock Creek, PA 18621.

PITTSBURGH HAS BEEN SELECTED as the site for the 12th All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America, which will be held in July 1999.

A YOUTH SERVICE AWARD has been established for young people who voluntarily offer their time and talents in various ministries. For info write: Office of Youth, PO Box 675, Syosset, NY 11791.

THE FROC, FEDERATED RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CLUBS, has named February 1, 1998 as "Heartbeat Sunday," to raise funds to purchase much-needed medical supplies for St. Alexis Hospital, a church-administered institution in Moscow. In early December $25,000 worth of equipment was donated.

DURING HIS TRIP to the U.S., Patriarch Bartholomew spoke to clergy in Pittsburgh. He said: "avoid innovations and imitative, foreign (liturgical) forms. Our Holy Church is ever young and original, unique in preserving unshakable the traditions of the first undivided Church for over two thousand years. The only true innovation is that same faithfulness which has been deserted by others. Therefore, much care is needed, that we not permit the entry of anything from the religious or cultural milieu which is not in agreement with the Orthodox faith and the Orthodox ethos."

THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL of the Transfiguration of Our Lord at 228 North 12th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11211-1101 is celebrating the 90th anniversary of its founding. The church is a Landmark of New York City, National Historic Place. A year 'round celebration will culminate with a celebration banquet in September. Former members are asked to furnish material for a Journal of Memories. Call Mary Durniak at 718-461-8364.

MANY MONASTERIES ARE BEING FOUNDED IN THE U.S. One of the latest is St. John Monastery at 15458 Bear Valley Rd.#8, Victorville, CA 92392. Fr. Seraphim, who was tonsured at St. Gregory Palamas Monastery in Perrysville, OH, 16 years ago, may be reached at 760-962-1193.

IN DECEMBER we wrote about a chapel on Adak in Alaska having Orthodox services for the first time. Margaret Pysarchyk, Lorain, Ohio, wrote that her father served for two years in the Aleutians during World War II and felt badly that the churches were made "off limits" due to the actions of some soldiers.

NICHOLAS AND ALEXANDRA: THE LAST IMPERIAL FAMILY OF TSARIST RUSSIA, an exhibit of 400 items, opens its tour at the Delaware Grand Exhibition Hall in Wilmington, DE from August 1 to December 31. Group tickets are already on sale. For info call: 1-888-395-0005.

IN ISTANBUL, TURKEY, a bomb was tossed on the Cathedral of the Ecumenical Patriarchate on December 3. Extensive damage resulted and a deacon was seriously injured.

IN ANSWER TO A REQUEST BY THE BISHOPS of the Greek Archdiocese, Patriarch Bartholomew wrote that six bishops will now hold the rank of Metropolitan. In churches of the Russian tradition, a metropolitan has an ecclesiastical title higher than an archbishop. In the Greek tradition, an archbishop has a title higher than a metropolitan.

A DIAMOND MAY JOIN THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SYMBOLS signifying humanitarian aid. The cross and crescent symbols have proven problematic in situations where Christians and Muslim have been in conflict.

DIFFICULTIES REMAIN IN ALBANIA over the appointment of three Greek Metropolitans by the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The Minister of State said that the "government believed in creating a Holy Synod through the appointment of Albanian nationals as heads of the Albanian Autocephalous Orthodox Church." Difficulties emerge from an Albanian law forbidding the creation of a Synod comprised entirely of Greek nationals.

IN FRANCE, the Orthodox Monastery of the Veil of Our Lady in Bussy with 20 sisters is in need of funds to repair their old building. The monastery is known for their translation into English of the Orthodox liturgical services. These books are widely used. Help can be sent through: Holy Transfiguration Monastery, RD 1, Box 184-X, Ellwood City, PA 16117.

MOSCOW: Steps are under way to remove the mumified body of Lenin from the mausoleum in the Red Square. Yeltsin heads the move but Patriarch Alexei urges caution at this time to avoid further unrest in Russia and possible social conflict. The Communists still dominate the Parliament. It may be put on a national referendum for the people to decide.

THE TOMB IN JERUSALEM is like an onion, with layer upon layer of construction surrounding the original rock-cut burial site of Christ. Archeologists have discovered edicules from the 4th, 11th and 16th centuries. The tomb is in need of rebuilding because it was damaged by an earthquake in 1922. However, the Greek Orthodox, Armenian Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches who have custody cannot agree on the design. Hope now exists as two years ago a gift of 5 million dollars restored the dome which soars over the tomb. The tomb features a clear center through which the sun streams. Exploding from it are 12 sunlit rays of gold for the 12 Apostles, each ray with 3 streams of light for the Holy Trinity.

• Observation on Carpathian Heritage Tour

ready to be restored when that part of the church was torched several years ago, destroying the articles completely.

It was suggested that on our way to the Slovak border through the Dukla Pass we stop at a Lemko Village, which is being assembled. Here we found that many of the crosses which had been removed from the Eastern Churches, both Orthodox and Greek Catholic were being preserved. They were hung on the sides of the huts and inside some of the buildings. There were too many to count. What works of art!

We were surprised to find that they were crafted of metal. It looked as if they were wrought iron. The embellishments were imaginative and individualistic. Lemkos (Galicians) may have been forced to live poorly but this could not quench their love of the beautiful.

As the months go by we will print a few examples of crosses from some of the churches. If you have any more information, please share it with us.

WINTER'S GRACE

When men and women in history are recalled (as is Abraham Lincoln), the moments of success and the triumphs of their lives are usually emphasized. But we also retell the stories of the difficult times and the many perils they had to endure in order to achieve their goals. It wasn't an easy life for Lincoln, yet faithfulness to an ideal brought success.

As St. James tells us: "Consider yourselves fortunate when all kinds of trials come your way, because you know that when your faith succeeds in facing such trials, the result is the ability to endure."

None of our lives are easy. Rich and poor, old or young alike must suffer daily trials. We should try to persevere through the big and small trials of each day, trust that our prayers will be answered, and never doubt that God will make the end result of all trials worthwhile.

Although most of what we do will not get written down in history, the little triumphs of today, in the way one acts, thinks, and speaks as a Christian, will have effects beyond imagining.

PRAYER IS ACTION

Some people look at religion as rows of pews, choir music, church cupolas, ikons, black cassocks and long faces, parastases and coffins, all glued together with an endless array of do's and don'ts.

It's the same with prayer. They look at it as a pastime for old ladies with nothing else to do, or a rabbit's foot for good luck when all else fails.

This is, of course, a false image. Prayer is not a retreat. Prayer is an assault on our problems. Prayer is grabbing the initiative.

In St. Luke 18:1 it tells us that "Men ought always to pray and not to faint." The Orthodox Bible version tells us that "Men always ought to pray and not lose heart." A Russian language Gospel put out in 1919 in Peking, China by the Russian Spiritual Mission uses the words "ne univath" or despair. Whichever word you choose they mean much the same. The passage tells us to pray at all times and to "hang in there."

Of course, not everyone reacts the same way when problems come. Some indulge in self-pity. Others fall into pits of depression. Some turn sour on the world. Some get angry and start fights or commit acts of violence. Others try to drown their problems in drink or drugs. Some overeat; others stop eating. Some run away; some retreat within.

But praying about one's problems is doing something about them. Prayer is confrontational, not evasion. Prayer is for dynamic individuals who flush their problems out into the open. It's not for weaklings.

Through prayer, one exposes his problems to the greatest reservoir of power in heaven and on earth. Not that God is ignorant of our needs. But talking to Him – as we would to a dear trusted friend – opens channels of communication and reservoirs of strength and reservoirs of strength unknown to mere man.

In the 19th century, Alfred Lord Tennyson, the English poet, said it well: "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."

JUDGEMENT DAY

Feb. 22 is Meat-fare Sunday! We are reminded that soon it will be the Time of Great Lent. We shall have to exercise efforts to discipline our body, our soul, our mind. Always with the help of the Holy Spirit - Who guides us, accepts us and helps us receive forgiveness if we have at least the **intention** to exert these efforts.

It is also the Time to remember the Final Judgement which Christian teaching says will close time as we know it. This judgement gives an image which makes people afraid because we sense that God, the Judge, knows and sees **everything** we do - and even the things we think. If God is also the Prosecutor, then who will be able to stand against His accusations?

The good news (the Gospel!) which the Church proclaims is that God the Father, the Righteous Judge, has sent us a Defender in the Person of Jesus Christ. But in order for Him to be able to defend us, we must **accept** His services. What shall we do if we ignore this offer of divine help? It is Time to choose.

Actually there is a judgment that is going on **continually.** Good works continually produce a harvest of good and bads ones - catastrophes! The Sunday of the Last Judgement reminds us that we are all **responsible** for our actions, our words and our thoughts. This is not a chaotic universe, where there are no moral consequences of our actions. There is meaning in the universe God has made! Let us act responsibly, morally, with patience, mercy and courage.

Fr. Ihor George Kutash, Ph.D.

•Kitchen Corner

crumbs. Layer one-half of the onions, with one-half meat mixture, then remaining onions, half of the potatoes, remaining meat and the remaining potatoes. Beat the 2 eggs with the 2 Tbls. milk, add pinch of salt and pepper, and pour carefully over potatoes in casserole. Dot with remaining butter. Sprinkle with 1 Tbls. bread crumbs and with grated cheese. Bake at 350° for about 50-55 minutes.

WHY THIS SATURDAY?

The Saturday before Meat-Fast Sunday (February 22) is designated the first in the series of Soul Saturdays (Zadushni Saboti).

There are two reasons for choosing this particular Saturday to remember the dead. The first reason is that on the following day we commemorate the Second Coming of Christ. It is only natural to think of those dead who will arise to be judged by their Creator. From its concern the Church offers these prayers that God be merciful to those who have fallen asleep in the Lord.

The second reason is that it is an appropriate time to remind us that we must all die and so we should be aware that we should be penitent especially during the season of Great Lent, which is fast approaching.

WEEKLY MEDITATIONS

Praying the Beatitudes Series

February 1 - Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. O Jesus our Savior, grant us the grace to be free from everything that separates us from You. Teach us to be truly poor in spirit and to grow in the blessed life which only comes from You, the Creator and Lord of All. We have no other desire than to obey Your will. May our eyes and hearts be open to understand the meaning of true humility. Welcome us into Your kingdom where all the saints and the righteous abide. Show us Your love and kindness, O Lord, and graciously have mercy on us.

February 8 - Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted.
O Lord Jesus, when You were in the Garden of Gethsemane, You accepted the cup of suffering from Your Father in heaven. Through Your suffering we have come to know and experience Your salvation. Teach us to recognize and mourn over our sins. Restore to us the joy of Your saving power. May other people see Your Hand working in our lives and in so doing, come to know You, our Living and True God. Comfort all those who have experienced the death of a loved one with the knowledge of Your Resurrection and promise of eternal life. Help them through our unworthy prayers and loving deeds. O Lord, graciously hear us and have mercy.

February 15 - Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
We come to You, O Jesus, Son of God, Who is most gentle and kind. Teach us meekness and lowliness of heart. Through Your incarnation and birth from a pure Virgin, You embraced our nature and elevated it to the heights of heaven. Through Your meekness shown on earth, you taught us how to know the Father. May all our actions be pleasing in Your sight. May we never return evil for evil but overcome the negative things that happen in our lives with goodness. O Lord, hear us now and have mercy.

February 22 - Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
O Jesus, Son of the Living God, bless those who seek Your righteousness. When temptation surrounds us, stand by our side to assist, support and save us. Help us always to do what is pleasing in Your sight. May everything we do this day draw us closer to You. Never let our actions cause scandal to our neighbors and friends. They, too, O Lord, are loved by You. Our hearts are restless for You; come and satisfy our inner longing for You. Grant that we may sing and glorify You all the days of our lives. May we enter into Your kingdom to live with You forever. O Lord, hear us now and have mercy.

Raymond Mastroberte
Choral Director

BEFORE LENT

Since the Resurrection of Christ/Easter is the most important day by far in the Orthodox Calendar, it is no surprise that the months surrounding it are set up so beautifully liturgically. This period starts three weeks before Great Lent and is called the **Triodion**. This year it starts on February 8 with the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee, followed by the Prodigal Son, then Meat and Cheese Fast Sundays.

The services of this period are resplendent with hymns and parables chosen to cleanse the souls of the faithful from all tribulation (lack of peace).

The first Sunday of this period takes its name and theme from the Gospel reading from Luke 18:10-14 about the Pharisee and Publican. It teaches that inner repentance, in addition to external piety, is needed on our way to salvation.

Luke 15:11-32 is the Gospel reading for the second Sunday. It is known as the Prodigal Son Sunday. It teaches us that no matter how great our sins are when we come to our senses and repent, God the Father will welcome us and forgive us.

The third Sunday has as its Gospel reading Matthew 25:31-46. This warns us about the final judgment and the need for good works.

The three weeks are concluded by Cheese Fast Sunday. The reading of Matthew 6:14-21 tells us how to observe the Great Lent.

This takes us to the threshold of Great Lent.

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Some there are that torment themselves afresh with the memory of what is past; others again, afflict themselves with the apprehension of evils to come; and very ridiculous are both – for one does not now concern us, and the other not yet. One should count each day a separate life.

Dabs of Thoughts

It has been a 1000-year tradition of the Russian Orthodox Church not to proselytize following St. Paul's words to the Romans 15:20. "So I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man's foundation."

St. John Chrysostom said: "Even when you believe the rumors in circulation, you should not repeat them, much less should you parrot them when you are not sure about their veracity. For if you are really concerned about your soul's welfare and worried about answering to God for your life's deeds, be very careful, for you shall be judged severely for gossiping."

The way to heaven is to turn right and keep straight.

Above all we need the strength of our convictions; and we permanently diminish our strength, if for the sake of a monetary advantage, we act in a way which affronts our strong consciences.

The number of bivocational pastors who manage a "full-time" job and a "part-time" church is growing.

A friend told me that the importance of a child's obedience to his parents was never a serious matter to her until she heard a famous child specialist say, "When it comes to serious illness, the child who has been taught to obey stands four times the chance for recovery than the spoiled and undisciplined child does."

Until she heard that statement she had thought that one of the Ten Commandments was for children to obey their parents, and never had it entered her mind that the learning of obedience might mean saving or losing the life of a child.

God made us. He knows that the commandments He has given us are for our own good. That's why we must live by faith.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. (Psalm 51:10-12)

It's not necessary to blow out the other person's candle to make your own shine brighter.



EDITORS' NOTES

We have been receiving many requests concerning the Packet Plan. Individuals are being added to the plan. They send us $36 for a monthly packet of 10. They distribute them to people in their parish or religious education classes. Many times it is given as a Memorial Gift for a loved one, who is then remembered each month for a year. Call us at 717-256-7232 if you wish more information.

This month we celebrate the Meeting or Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple. Syndesmos, the international Orthodox Society, has designated this day as The World Day of Orthodox Youth. This is a commendable effort. However, upon studying the Gospel text for this event and the Lives of the Saints who had a part in this, we were alerted to something else – the age of St. Simeon and Anna, the prophetess. The gospel tells us that Anna was 84 years old. We know that St. Simeon was one of the Seventy who translated the Bible from Hebrew into Greek. He was very old.

It is interesting that both were still active in the work of the Temple. They were not retired with not only no place in the life of the Temple but not welcomed because of their retired status. How far the church came from the time of Christ. At the present time in the Orthodox Church a retired priest has no place where he is welcomed to pray regularly. His sage advise is sniggered at in all levels of the church. He is forgotten. How sad and sinful and short-sighted!

We are in the Pre-Lenten period. This is the time to think about how you will observe the Lenten period. Mark church days on your calendar now. Do the same for other deeds that you intend to do.

God Be With You.

The Stroyens

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Too many times we care more for a person's feelings than we do for his soul.

ETHNIC CHUCKLE

Dorohaya Tyotya Maria,

Yak tam kolo vas? To oo nas shitko OK.

Ve svedalee za vashaho brata Yurka. Me to oo Amereeshe calling yeho Uncle George. Anyway, ya budu vam pisatee za malee incident ee Uncle George. Couple a months ago, ohn maw 65 birthday ee to oo Amerikee people edyut na retirement. Yeho zhena, me Aunt Olga make him takee barz velekee retirement party. Bullo takee nice party. Shitkee nashee krayanee e family preshlee ee meh malee family reunion. Meh yelee ee pillee ee tainsovalee do ranaa. Yah vam nhe mushyu pesatee yak nashe holovee feelooyut next day.

Aunt Olga call me na telephone couple of days ago ee povela me zhe ohna dumala zhe ohna scrazuyeh since Uncle George na retirement. Ohna me kashe zhe first Monday zhe neh mushee go to work ohn put kitchen chair na center of room. Stal na nem, put up his arm yak Statue of Liberty ee srobeel proclamation: "Yah teper free man; yah nhe musyu nech robitee." EE, ohn nech ney doing!

Day after day, ohn sitting watching TV. Aunt Olga maye extra cooking, ee cleaning, ee waiting na yeho. Ohn yelling: "Olyha, druhyu pevo." "Olyha, what you doing?" "Olyha, Olyha, Olyha" kretcha all day long.

Aunt Olga, me povila zhe finally ohna mala enough. One morning, ohna stala na kitchen chair, ee kazhe to Uncle George. "Kolee ya bulla u night school na citizen classes ohnee mee povelee zhe na Statue of Liberty kashe: 'Give me your tired, weary.' Ohna made pose like Statue of Liberty ee zrobela prouncement: 'Yah 62, yah retired, boh like Statue of Liberty say yah tired e weary'."

EE ohna peeshla nah retirement ot housework ee waiting nah Uncle George. Ohna kazhe zhe she will not do anything until ohnee make a truce.

Yak yeh povella: "Hang in there." Trimaysya!

Budtey Zdrovyee,
Family reporter, Hanya.

MAKE ME A CLEAN HEART

We pray in Psalm 51:12: "Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."

Every once in awhile, my heart needs to be cleansed, rinsed off, revived, and renewed. As dirt and grime on a windowpane make it dull and opaque, so does my inner vision become cloudy. I regularly need to notice what I do and do not see when I look from my heart's perspective.

What are some of the things that collect on and need to be cleansed off the windowpane of my heart? I often need to brush off the frantic busyness so that I can see God more clearly in people and events. Harsh thoughts and hasty judgments must be washed away. The residue from old squabbles with others needs to be rinsed off. I have to cleanse my heart of anxiety and lack of trust. On and on the list goes.

Time for reflection and prayer is vital in order to keep my inner heart transparent. If I am too busy or too preoccupied with the external details of life, I can often miss what needs cleansing in my heart.

PRESS FUND

Spasebo/Thank you to so many of you who remembered us at Christmastime. You really help us to keep telling the story, since 1952, of salvation which was brought by the Christ Child.

Nina Doughty, Julia Blisak, Anna Nakulak, **Paul and Dee Baumgarten,** Helen Durniak, Ethel Watlock, Raymond Rusnak, John Russian, Helen Spirnak, **John Bodnar,** Vera Hershey, Marie Grabania, George Brozina, Alexandria Bosko, **Joseph and Diana Holobinko,** Deacon Stefan and Gloria Pasko, Stephen and Lillian Smarsh, Cyril Wadzita, **Leona Hutchko,** Michael and Irene Maskaly, Stephen Karas, Charles R. Smith, George Kupar, Joseph and Diana Burchick, Serge Taptykoff, **Helen Dzugan,** Thomas Broslawik, **Allen Lucas,** Irene Allen, Eli and Sophia McKay, Mary Stoyka, Anonymous, **Vera Mooney, Steve and Mary Matrician,** Betty Swizz, Olga Peck, Beverly Karol, Mary Kachmaruk, Afton Chowamsky, Andrew Popovchak, Charles and Katherine Dekilas.

Alex Romanchuk in memory of Fr. Dimitri Voytilla. Helen Cudlic in memory of a friend. In memory of Arnold and Julie Katko's parents and Natalie's grandparents. **Drs. Victor** and **Sonya Naryshkin Sobolewski** in memory of Aunt Nadia Kousmine. Helen Harvey in memory of parents Michael and Mary Pirow. Anita Anderson in memory of her dad John Sherby. **Theodore Hamilla** in memory of Orthodox fraternal brothers. Michael and Diana Pirich in memory of Michael Pirich, Jr., Leo Geriak, Alice Marlin, Dcn. George Kricfalusi, Bro. Ignatius Farnsworth. Mary O'Buck for health of her family and for us. Christine Hazzard in honor of the 56th Anniversary on February 11 of her grandparents, Stephen and Johanna Chomko.

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A wise educator send this note to all parents on the first day of school: If you promise not to believe everything your child says happens at school, I'll promise not to believe everything he says happens at home.



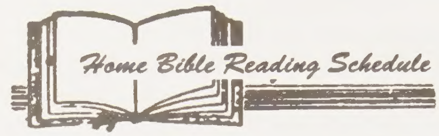
My sister, Elizabeth, has been over-busy taking all the recipes from the past 45 years of **The Orthodox Herald** and preparing them for a cookbook. There are over 500 recipes, so many decisions must still be made. She told me the other day not to have another recipe for blini, as I have already had several. But it has been 46 years! We get new subscribers every month who would not have back issues. Anyway, I'll take her advice and include a recipe which will go good on the table with the blini but is good anytime. I must warn you to start cleaning the meat from your freezer and start saving onion skins for your Easter eggs! Lent will be here next month, beginning on March 2.

MEAT AND POTATO CASSEROLE
(PASHTET)

3 medium potatoes
1/4 cup butter
salt and pepper
1/2 cup bread crumbs
2 onions, chopped
3 cloves, crushed
2 slices white bread
1/2 cup and 2 Tbls. milk
1 1/2 lbs. ground chuck
2 eggs
1 Tbls. grated parmesan cheese

Peel and quarter potatoes. Boil in salted water. Drain and mash with 3 Tbls. butter and 1/4 cup bread crumbs. Fry onions in 2 Tbls. butter. Combine meat, salt and pepper, and cloves. Soak bread slices in milk, squeeze dry and add to meat mixture. Butter casserole and sprinkle with bread

(Continued on Page 57, Col. 3)



FEBRUARY 1998

1. **Luke 19:1-10**	18. Mark 14:43-15:1
2. Mark 12:13-17	19. Mark 15:1-15
3. Mark 12:18-27	20. Mark 15:22-25, 33-41
4. Mark 12:28-37	21. Luke 21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36
5. Mark 12:38-44	22. **Matthew 25:31-46**
6. Mark 13:1-8	23. Luke 19:29-40, 22:7-39
7. Luke 18:2-8	24. Luke 22:39-42, 45-23:1
8. **Luke 18:10-14**	25. Joel 2:12-26
9. Mark 13:9-13	26. Luke 23:1-34, 44-56
10. Mark 13:14-23	27. Zach 8:7-17
11. Mark 13:24-31	28. Matt 6:1-13
12. Mark 13:31-14:2	
13. Mark 14:3-9	
14. Luke 20:45-21:4	
15. **Luke 2:22-40**	
16. Mark 11:1-11	
17. Mark 14:10-42	

BIBLE STUDY
Read Matthew 25:31-46

It was a typical day around our not-so-typical household. After work and school, the family gathered around the dinner table before scattering to its appointed tasks: office work for me, some laundry for the wife, more Mickey Mouse coloring for the little one, and homework for the student.

In the midst of it all came an important phone call of the "spiritual emergency" sort. As I held the phone to my ear, attempting to recall some appropriate scriptural passage while formulating a loving, pastoral response to an obviously distressed caller, I become disturbed and distracted by the sound of children at play.

I made quick business of the call and stormed out of the office. With a voice that could exorcise a demon, I cried: "Is it asking too much to keep quiet while I'm on the phone?!"

Eventually, peace and calm returned. Forgiveness was sought and granted. But, in that single moment of anger, the question was appropriate, even though the tone may not have been.

Of course, it is never asking too much to think of others. It is what Our Lord challenges us to do as Christians. However, we often reject the notion, neglect to express love, and even shirk the mandated Gospel imperative, all to satisfy some pressing "need of the moment" for ourselves.

Imagine these very words issuing from the mouth of Jesus Christ: "Is it asking too much," for example, "for you, who have abundance, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, or visit the sick"? "Is it asking too much for your worship, your response to my love, your time for and attention to the salvation of your soul?" "Is it asking too much for you to sacrifice a portion of your time and breath to keep my commandments, after I gave my very life to redeem you?"

Perhaps even the Church could use this approach in addressing her faithful: "Is it asking too much to attend worship services, partake of the Sacraments, search the Scriptures, fast, and support the work of God's Kingdom in thought, word and deed?"

It is hardly impossible for us to accomplish all that Our Lord and His Church teach and direct. The opportunities to do those things which love demands certainly are available to all people at all times. "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also," says Our Lord. Within the deep recesses of our hearts, we acknowledge this to be the truth.

The next time you hear a directive of the Gospel or an appeal from the Church, simply search your heart and question yourself: "Is it asking too much?" If you seriously think about it, the answer is always "No." All that remains for you is to *do.*

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION

How do you respond to life's many distractions? • Is the keeping of the commandments seen as inhibiting your lifestyle? • Seriously consider your response to Matthew 25:31-46 in your daily life and in your parish. • What can you/your parish do to conform to the Gospel criteria of ministering to "the least of the brethren"? • Why is this Gospel lesson appointed for our approach to Great Lent?

Fr. Dan Kovalak
author of: From This Day Forth on Christian Living

MISSION AND ALASKA FUND

We will be combining the Alaska Literature and Mission Funds since both are mission literature funds.

Alaska Fund: Alexander Romanchuk, Marie Grabania, John Russian, Marvin Kiehl, Ethel Watlock, A.M. Fedec, George Kupar.

Mission Fund: Ethel Watlock, Sarah Jubinski, George Kupar, John Russian, Stephen Karas, Marie Grabania, **Anita Anderson** in memory of all founders of Nativity Blessed Virgin Church in So. Plainfield, NJ, **Helen Harvey** in memory of her parents, Michael and Mary Pirow from Hawk Run, PA

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A candle loses none of its light by lighting another candle.